

Status of Recycling Markets in New Hampshire: Is Recycling Still Worthwhile?

New Hampshire House of Representatives
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Northeast Resource Recovery Association



About NRRA

- Recycling nonprofit
- 400+ members, primarily municipalities
- Founded nearly 40 years ago



Cooperative Marketing and Purchasing



Enable communities
to manage their own
recycling programs



40 programs, including
single stream and
municipal solid waste



Connect sellers of
recyclables to
purchasers



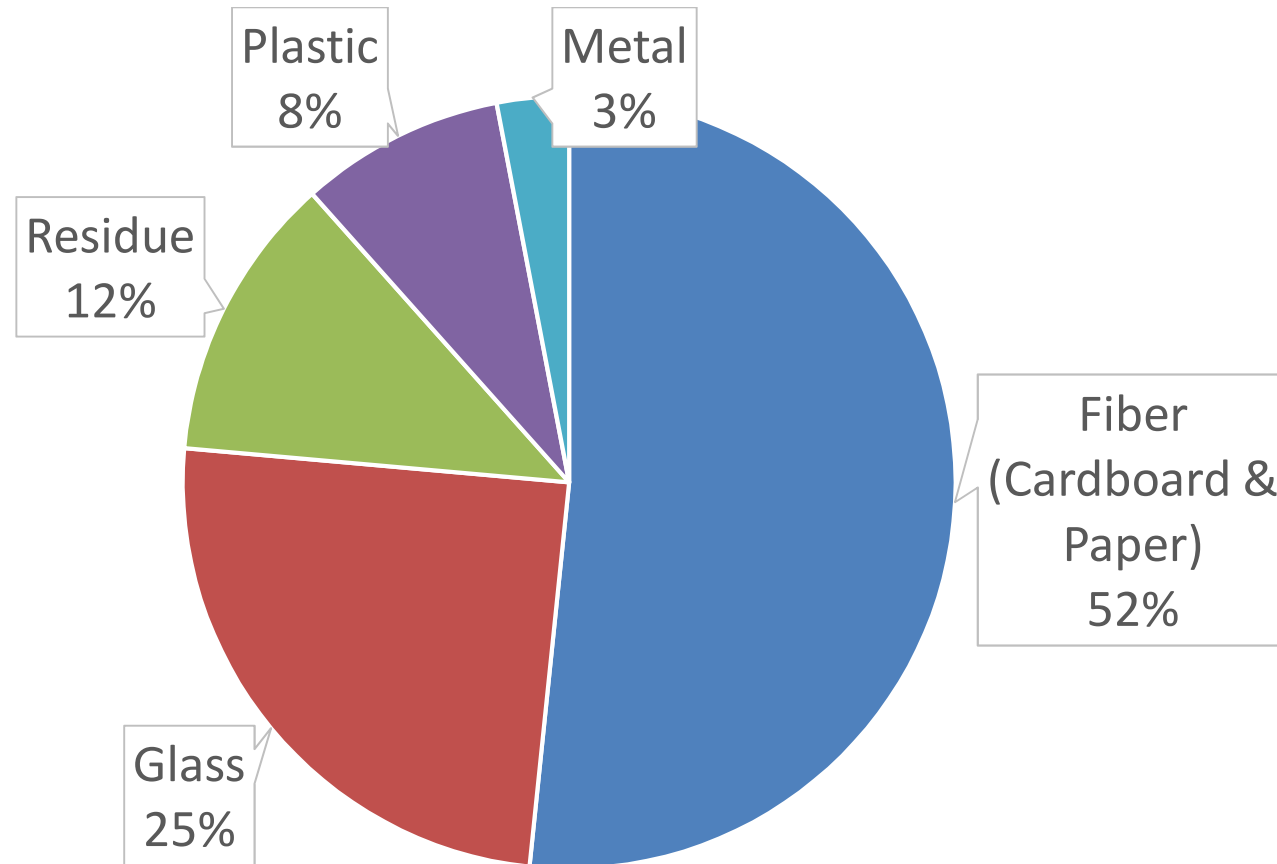
- Workshops
- Facility tours
- Annual conference
- Technical assistance
- School Club programs

Education

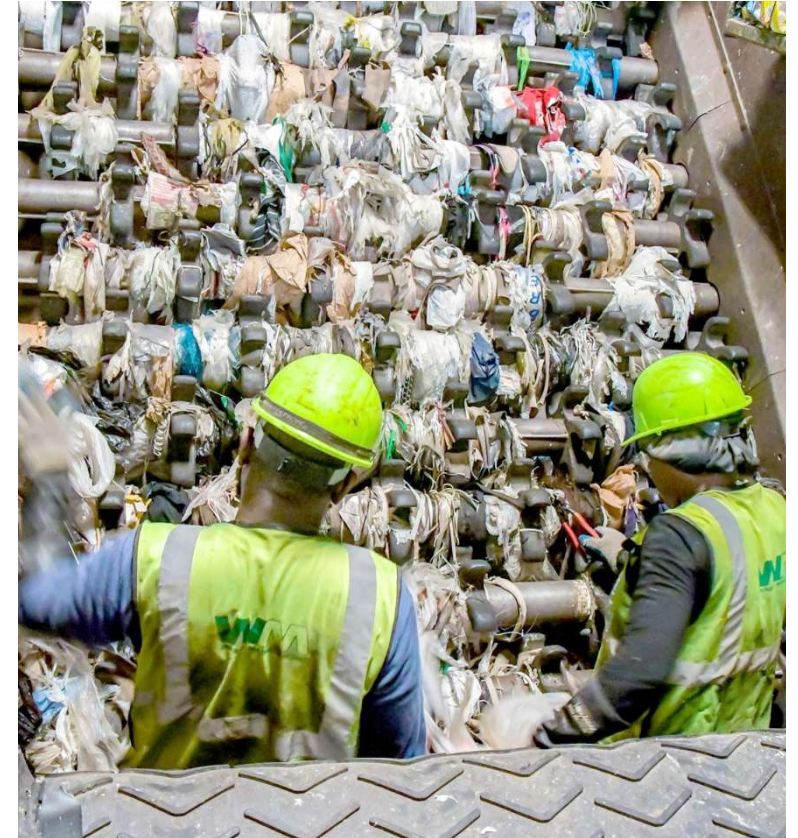
Myth: If recyclables can't be sold for a profit, then they should be thrown away.

Truth: Recycling is a valuable cost avoidance strategy

Core Commodities (by weight)



[Source: Northeast Recycling Council \(Aug. 2019\)](#)



Single Stream
Recycling
(versus source
separation)

Typically lower value commodities
because more contamination

Higher contamination key factor
leading to China's National Sword

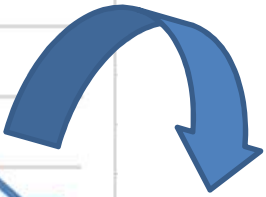
China's National Sword Policy

- Ban effective Jan. 1, 2018
- All plastics, unsorted mixed paper & textiles
- Some glass and metals
- 0.5% contamination limit versus prior 2%



Fibers (cardboard
and mixed paper)

- Biggest impact from China's National Sword
- Pre-Sword, China purchased 55% of world's scrap paper



Jan. 2020
Cost over
\$80 per ton

(Source: NRRRA)

Silver Lining



Domestic investment
in paper mills



22 new and existing
mills increasing
capacity for mixed
paper



[Source: Northeast
Recycling Council
\(Aug. 2019\)](#)



Glass

- Markets were poor before China
- NRRA has programs for recycling and crushing glass into aggregate

Glass Recycling



Glass bottles and jars only



Canadian vendor cleans and crushes



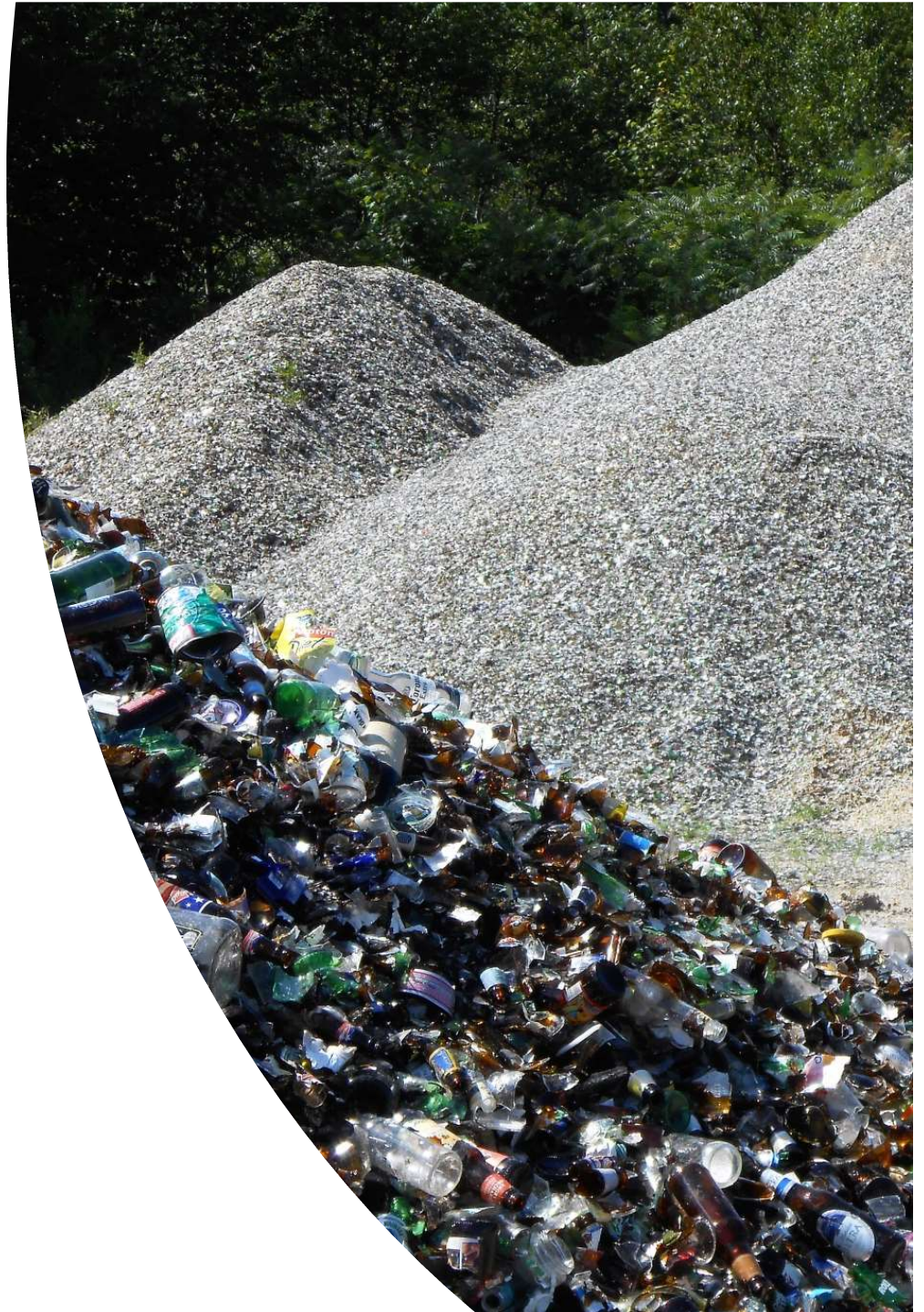
Made into fiberglass insulation back in US



65+ communities in NH, VT & MA

Processed Glass Aggregate

- Glass bottles and jars
- Pyrex, ceramics, porcelain, window glass
- Crush into aggregate
- Subbase for road and infrastructure projects
- 60+ communities in NH, VT & MA



Metal & Plastic

- Scrap plastic exports from the U.S. dropped by 35% from 2017 to 2018
- Metal prices down due to tariffs between US and China
 - Not related to National Sword Policy



Materials Recovery Facility Financials

Revenue and (Costs)	Per Ton	
Tipping Fee with Contract (Calendar year 2018)	\$38.00	
Processing Costs (Calendar year 2018; July - Sept 2019)	(\$82.00)	(\$83.00)
Commodity Value Per Ton with Residuals (April - June 2019; July - Sept 2019) -24% change	\$45.83	\$34.85

[Source: Northeast Recycling Council \(Nov. 2019\)](#)

Effect on Single & Dual Stream Communities



Dramatically higher tipping fees (\$100+ per ton)



Additional fees if exceed set contamination limits



Some switching back to source separation



Some burning or landfilling recyclables temporarily



Effect on Source Separating Communities

Less impact because
higher quality
commodities and not
dependent on materials
recovery facilities

Source Separated Commodity Values

Sample Market Pricing for January 2020			
		Revenue / (Cost) Per Ton	
		Low	High
Plastic	#2 HDPE Natural (ex. Milk jugs)	\$1,020	\$1,120
Metal	Aluminum Cans	\$440	\$620
Plastic	#2 HDPE Colored (ex. Detergent bottles)	\$220	\$280
Fiber	Sorted Office Paper	\$80	\$85
Plastic	#1 PET (ex. Soda bottles)	\$40	\$100
Plastic	#1 - #7 Mix	\$40	\$80
Fiber	#8 Newsprint	\$45	\$55
Fiber	OCC (Cardboard)	\$15	\$40
Glass	Into Aggregate or Fiberglass	(\$75)	(\$35)
Fiber	Mixed Paper	(\$100)	(\$80)
TRASH	MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE	(\$120)	(\$70)

Source: NRRRA (assumes material baled and shipped in full loads)

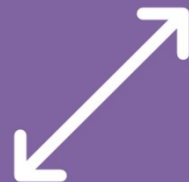
Advice for Communities



Single & Dual Stream: educate residents and clean up your stream



Source Separated: consider separating out more material



All: avoid making dramatic changes

Save the Date

Webinar: Is Recycling Still Worthwhile in New Hampshire?

Wed., January 29, 2020, 12 PM to 1 PM

NH Municipal Association

<https://www.nhmunicipal.org/event/upcoming-webinar-recycling-still-worthwhile-new-hampshire>

NRRA Annual Conference

***Think Outside the Bin: Refuse, Reduce,
Reuse, Recycle, Rot***

May 18 & 19, 2020

DoubleTree by Hilton, Manchester, NH

Additional Resources

NRRA HB 617 Initial Testimony

The State of Recycling Markets in New Hampshire (8 pages)

<https://nrra.net/wp-content/uploads/NRRA-HB-617-Recycling-Markets-09032019.pdf>

NRRA Monthly Newsletter *Full of Scrap*

Sign up: <https://nrra.net/#newsletter>



Thank you For Recycling

Northeast Resource Recovery Association

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STAY CONNECTED

[FACEBOOK](#)

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